

Town of



AMHERST *Massachusetts*

Office of the Town Manager
Town Hall
4 Boltwood Avenue
Amherst, MA 01002

Laurence Shaffer, Town Manager
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To: Stephanie O'Keeffe, Chair, Select Board
Members of the Select Board

From: Laurence Shaffer, Town Manager

Date: June 9, 2009

Re: McClure Street Traffic Calming Measures Temporary Experimentation

Please find attached a letter from Judith Young and Michael Dietrich relative to their concerns about the experiment planned for early September 2009, to limit access for thru traffic on both Lincoln and Sunset Avenues. The residents of McClure Street (map attached) are concerned that such changes in traffic pattern will have a deleterious effect upon their neighborhood. Guilford Mooring and I have met with members of that neighborhood and have agreed with a process that I believe might make sense. That process includes the following elements:

1. Traffic counts will be conducted McClure Street prior to the installation of the traffic calming measures in September. In that baseline statistics will be developed for traffic along McClure Street prior to the implementation of traffic calming measures on Lincoln and Sunset.
2. Traffic counts will continue to be monitored for one (1) week during the study process to ascertain what the difference is between traffic counts before the implementation of traffic calming events on Lincoln and Sunset and after.
3. In accordance with the request, we are going to cut off access to McClure Street in order to not allow for opportunity travelers to travel McClure Street during the final week of the study.

We believe that within the Select Board motion adopted on March 23, 2009, that the administration has authority to make the changes so suggested. However, we thought it is important for you to know that the staff is meeting with neighborhood people to continue to iron out some of the issues associated with the traffic calming study due this fall.

I look forward to discussing this further with the Select Board at your convenience.

cc: Guilford Mooring, Superintendent, Department of Public Works

enclosures

method. The intention is to use horizontal displacement as much as possible since it eases emergency vehicle response. For residential settings calming can include diverting traffic and mini circles.

Stephanie O'Keeffe noted the policy should be reviewed by the Public Works Committee so the SB will be working on a final draft and asked for the timeline for completing this policy?

Guilford Mooring explained this policy will go to Public Works Committee, Public Transportation and Bicycle Committee, and the Disabilities Access Advocacy Committee because it is a substantial change and needs to be carefully considered. It may be drafted for initial comments before school is out.

Alisa Brewer recommended the draft gets on the website for the widest possible distribution.

Rob Kusner hoped we would consider putting a readable draft up and invite comments to the Select Board directly. Mr. Kusner noted that many of our arterial roads are residential and crisscrossed by students and children and hoped we could consider them as residential first and arterial second.

Lincoln Avenue proposal: Mr. Mooring recalled that Lincoln Ave has been a problem for 30 years. A number of traffic counts and tests with speed cushions were made. The cushions made no difference on traffic counts but did reduce speed.

The Public Works Committee considered partial closures on Sunset and Lincoln which could be in place as a test this later Spring and counts could be made to determine the efficacy of the solution.

The Public Works Committee sent a letter that suggested it was not in favor of any of the proposed traffic calming solutions on Lincoln.

Charlie Moran (PWC) reported that the PWC did not vote on the partial closing but had earlier voted against making streets loop one way.

Steve Braun (PWC) noted that the PWC recommendations against partial closures was a recommendation against one-way looping. They also recommended speed cushions without a cut through. Mr. Braun thinks this is a good option.

The final proposal is for partial closures only, no speed cushions yet. This would be the first step to determine the need for also reducing speed.

Alisa Brewer would like to get this done as soon as possible.

Larry Shaffer has heard from others that the Lincoln and Sunset avenue neighborhoods are getting undue attention from this plan. He noted that the traffic on these roads, that is going to UMass, is reducing the quality of life in a neighborhood near downtown and there is a principled interest in protecting this neighborhood. It is unfair for a 26,000 student institution to run any portion of its traffic through a residential neighborhood.

Vincent O'Connor had a differing view from the PWC as a whole. He felt it would cause an impact on north Pleasant Street and traffic to the downtown businesses. Traffic barriers are a 24 hours solution to a limited problem. Mr. O'Connor would like to see a sign to keep people from starting down a street only to find a barrier at the end since it is likely they going around the barrier rather than turning around.

Stephanie O'Keeffe felt the sense of the Select Board is to support this test.

Alisa Brewer noted that it is important to have all this in place before the students arrive in September so they can be notified of the traffic changes before they return.

Larry Shaffer reported that Keith Hoyle has commented on this plan and is OK with it as long as he can respond to the University quickly. He approves of the partial barriers rather than the full barriers.

Guilford Mooring gets a lot of feedback from the residents and from various blogs. For formal communication Mr. Mooring will put notices in the papers.

Alisa Brewer moved to authorize the DPW to install temporary partial closures as shown in Figure 9 of the Lincoln Avenue Neighborhood meeting report prior to September 2009.

Gerry Weiss seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

Committee appointments

Diana Stein and Alisa Brewer met with Judith to start reviewing reappointment procedures and letter.

Town Manager's report

Recent and upcoming activity;

Mr. Shaffer has been recruiting people for both chief search committees with some success including Wellesley's police chief and Northampton's Fire Chief.

Mr. Shaffer was delighted to welcome the 10 students from Kanagasaki Japan this week.

Mr. Shaffer dined with Isaac Ben Ezara who is in good spirits and progressing well and will be ready for Town Meeting.

Hampshire College's President Hexter won a dinner at a fund raising auction for the Men's Resource Center. The dinner was put on by Stan Rosenberg and Mr. Shaffer.

The award letter for the grant to study the regionalization of emergency services dispatch included some codicils by the State 911 Committee including allowing them to review the results and for us to try and increase the region. Mr. Shaffer has contacted Ware, South Hadley and Sunderland to ask if they were interested in participating.

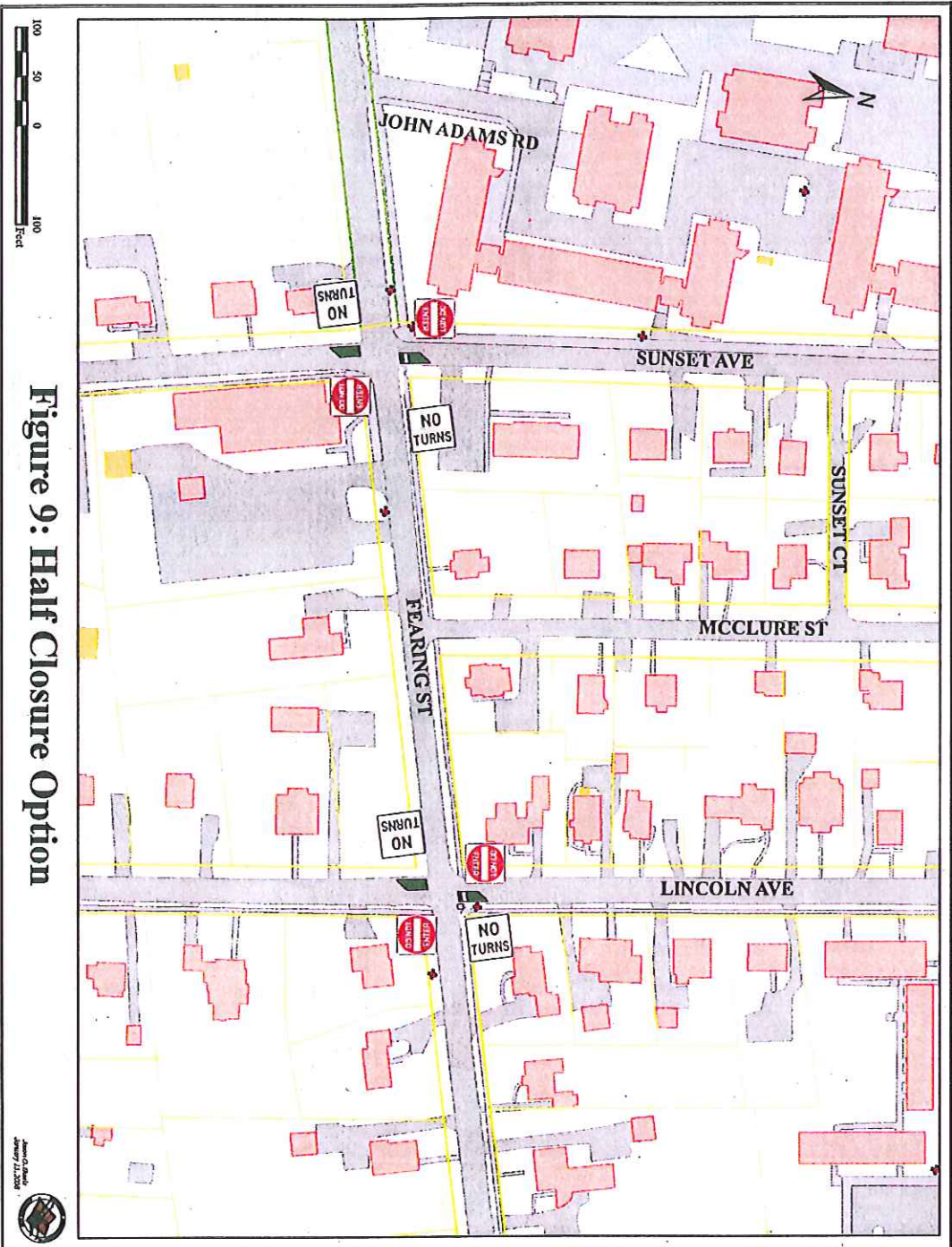
The Town received only two responses to RFP for using old land fill, wood processing facility, and PV farm. The PV proposal was not complete and the wood processor isn't appropriate for this neighborhood so Mr. Shaffer rejected both and is starting again.

Mr. Shaffer met with non-union employees and Waste Water Treatment Plant employees to bring them up to date on the issues of the budget, possible solutions, get their ideas and to get their feedback. Mr. Shaffer will meet with them again in 8 weeks to update them when more is known. All solutions are on the table including reduction of the work force but everything is being done to avoid lay-offs. Mr. Shaffer is concerned about the stability of the organization that uncertainty threatens. Getting information out as soon as possible is the best way to deal with it. He will be meeting with all departments including all shifts of APD and AFD.

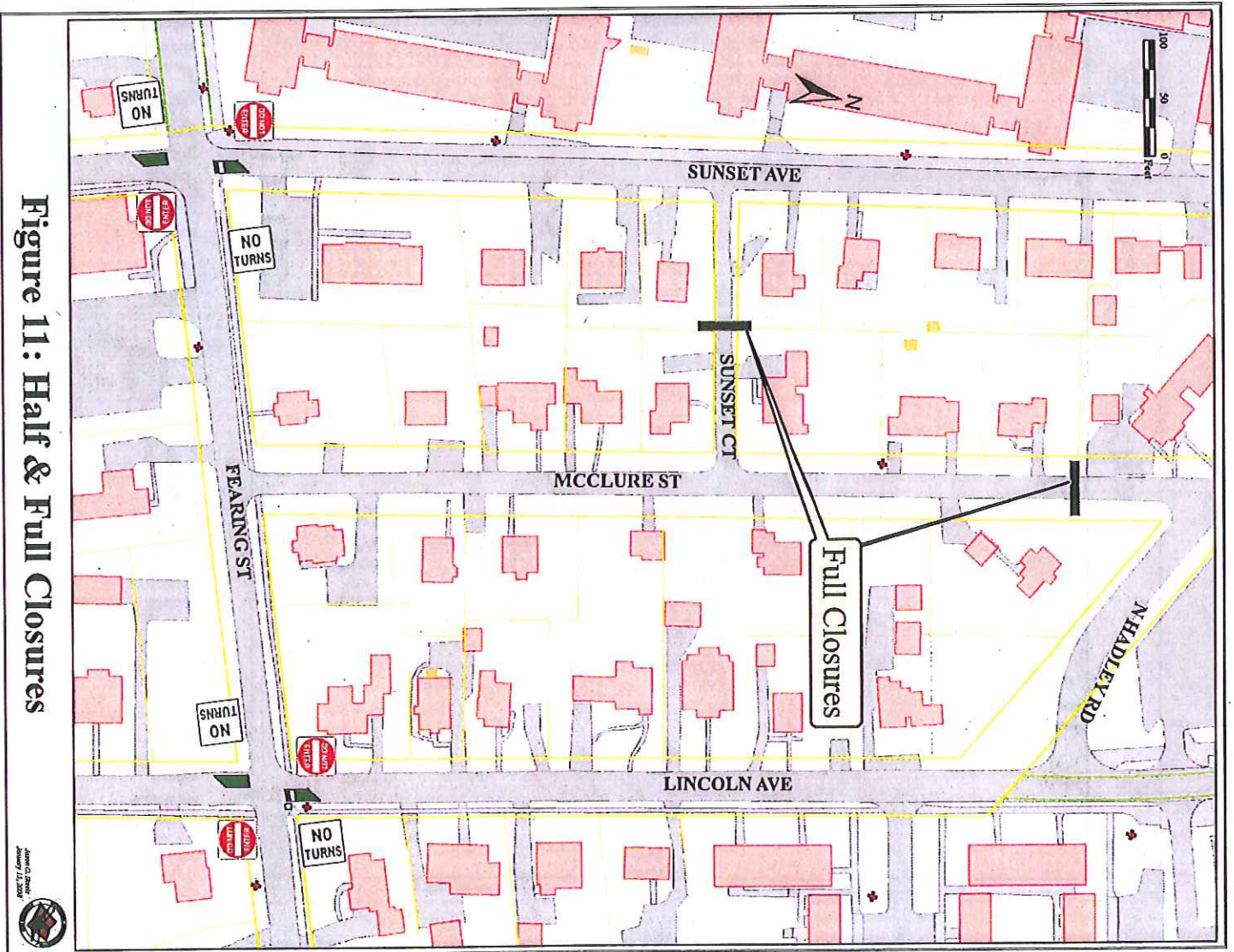
Diana Stein wondered if the meetings generated any good money saving ideas.

Mr. Shaffer replied that there were many energy conservation ideas.

Half Closure Placement



Half Closures with Full Closures



Judith Young
9 McClure St.
&
Michael Dietrich
35 McClure St.
Amherst, MA 01002

RECEIVED MAY 08 2009

April 30, 2009

Mr. Laurence Shaffer, Town Manager
Town Hall
4 Boltwood Ave.
Amherst, MA 01002

Dear Mr. Shaffer,

We are writing to you on behalf of ourselves and the residents of the 8 houses with McClure Street addresses. We are families with children living here, and 6 of these 8 houses are owner occupied. Even though we live very close to the University, none of the houses with McClure St. addresses are occupied by students – most of us are long-time residents of the Amherst. A letter to you, signed by the residents and families with McClure St. addresses, is attached.

We are greatly concerned over multiple aspects of the proposed traffic-calming plan to be implemented in the vicinity of Lincoln Ave., Sunset Ave., and Fearing St., and the impact that the proposed plan will have on McClure Street. One of us (Michael Dietrich) has been in contact with the Superintendent of Public Works Guilford Mooring, and has been sent a copy of the traffic plan that the Town plans to implement in August. Apparently a different plan was shown in the paper, as there are several possible plans.

Based on our own and our McClure Street neighbors' concerns, we are writing to request a meeting with you, with Guilford Mooring, and whomever other staff you deem appropriate, and for this meeting to be scheduled for as soon as possible. At this meeting we respectfully request the opportunity to voice our specific concerns regarding the traffic-calming plan, and we ask that you properly address our concerns before the plan is implemented.

We are available to meet with you on the afternoon of May 15, or any time on May 18 or 19. Please e-mail us your availability.

Sincerely,


Judith Young, young@astro.umass.edu


Michael Dietrich, michael.dietrich@dartmouth.edu

Cc: Guilford Mooring

McClure Street Residents
Amherst, MA 01002
May 1, 2009

Mr. Laurence Shaffer, Town Manager
Town Hall
4 Boltwood Ave.
Amherst, MA 01002

Dear Mr. Shaffer,

We, the undersigned, are the residents, families, and home-owners of the houses with McClure Street addresses. McClure Street is 1 block long, located off Fearing St. near the intersection of Fearing St. and Lincoln Ave, and 6 of these 8 houses are owner-occupied.

We have chosen to live on McClure Street because it is a quiet street with essentially no traffic.

The increase in traffic volume on McClure Street that is likely to result from the implementation of the traffic-calming plan will pose a danger to the numerous residents, children, and pets on McClure Street.

The increase in noise associated with the increased traffic will lead to a significant reduction in the quality of life on McClure street, a street which was never intended as main thoroughfare.

McClure Street is a narrow street with no parking either side, but every delivery truck, garbage truck, oil truck, etc., must park on the street, temporarily blocking traffic. The likely increase in traffic on McClure Street will create an additional danger.

We urge the Town of Amherst to more seriously take into consideration the impact of the traffic-calming plan on our neighborhood and its residents.

Sincerely,

Michael R. DeLoe
35 McClure St.

Judith Ury
9 McClure St.

Debra
9 McClure St
Charlotte Nestle
8 McClure St.

Lois
35 McClure St.
Marilyn Ostapuk
Cc: Guilford Mooring

Gabriel P. Bazz
50 McClure St.

Maria H. Gidder
20 McClure St.

Yfeihou
44. McClure St.

Gabrielle LaChiana
15 McClure St
Amherst, MA

Maria Ostapuk
20 McClure St.

Aleneora
58 McClure St
Catherine Portuges
24 McClure St

<u>Print Name</u>	<u>Print Address</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
Michael Dietrich	35 McClure St	michael.dietrich@dartmouth.edu
Judith Young	9 McClure St.	young@astro.umass.edu
Gaevee Stewart	9 McClure St.	Amherst
DOROTHY NESTLE	8 McClure St.	gas86@comcast.net
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